

## Amendments to the Claims

### **1-12. (Cancelled)**

**13. (Currently amended)** A method of promoting extension of corneal nerve axon, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~ease~~-in need of the promotion of extension of the corneal nerve axon.

**14. (Currently amended)** A method of recovering decreased corneal sensitivity associated with corneal nerve damage, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~ease~~-in need of the recovery of corneal sensitivity.

**15. (Currently amended)** A method of treating dry eye associated with decrease of corneal sensitivity, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~ease~~-affected with dry eye.

**16. (Currently amended)** A method of treating corneal epithelium defect associated with decrease of corneal sensitivity, which comprises topically administering an effective amount of a somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist to the eye of a subject ~~ease~~-having corneal epithelial defect.

**17. (New)** The method of claim 14, wherein the decreased corneal sensitivity is decreased corneal sensitivity after surgery.

**18. (New)** The method of claim 13, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

**19. (New)** The method of claim 14, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

**20. (New)** The method of claim 15, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

**21. (New)** The method of claim 16, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.

**22. (New)** The method of claim 17, wherein the somatostatin receptor SSTR2 or SSTR4 agonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of somatostatin, octreotide, t-butyl 6-amino-2-(3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-2-((4-(2-oxo-2,3-dihydrobenzoimidazol-1-yl)piperidine-1-carbonyl)amino)propionylamino)hexanoate and 1-(3-(N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-N-(3,4-dichlorobenzyl)amino)propyl)-3-(3-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)propyl)thiourea.